

Ripley County Democrat.

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'ROUNDABOUT THE STATE.

Cleaned from Exchanges--Made by the Shears, the Pencil and the Paste Pot--Some Original, Some Credited, and Some Stolen, but Nearly All Interesting Reading.

Music lovers at Joplin are trying to organize a chorus of 500 voices.

With two tame deer as a starter, Cape Girardeau hopes soon to have a zoo.

Albany goes on record for preparedness. A local concern is installing an ice plant.

When her puppies died an Albany spitz dog adopted a couple of young squirrels.

It is said much coal underlies northwest Missouri, but it has not yet been found in very great quantities.

Something of a feat is the achievement of a Humansville man who has succeeded in wearing one pair of shoes five years.

Lead ore attained its highest figure in history at Joplin the other day when \$89 a ton was paid. The highest previous price was \$88.50 in 1908.

The first news a Carthage woman had of her son in twelve years was a letter she received the other day telling her of his death in the Philippine islands.

The Corning school district at their election to vote \$10,000 in bonds for the purpose of erecting a new school building to replace the one burned a few weeks ago, carried the election in a vote of 88 to 15.

Because she walked around too many blocks with her sweetheart coming home from church, seventeen-year-old Helen Hill of Barton county was upbraided by her parents and suicided by the strichnine route.

Harry Moore, age 72, and his wife, Anna Moore, age 66, are likely the oldest operators of the telephone system in the world. They live near Linkville, have a switchboard in their home, and give faithful service day or night.

A car of turkeys is a pretty big thing to lose, but the bankruptcy hearing of W. H. Pitts, poultry dealer at Bolivar, revealed that he had shipped a car of turks to Chicago a month ago and had not been able to locate them since.

When William Bowen, of Flynn's chapel neighborhood in Cass county, fell ill the doctors made the usual diagnosis of appendicitis. While he was getting better an attack of hiccoughs set in which killed him in forty-eight hours.

The "I knew him when" club assembled the other day to shake the hand of a former Hannibal man who left there penniless years ago, and came back worth several million dollars. His fortune was acquired in the motion picture business.

A startling find was made at Centralia the other day, says The Guard, when the owner of a building started to clean up a room formerly occupied by a doctor. When the find was invoiced it was found to consist of forty pint whisky bottles, twenty-one half-pint bottles, five quart bottles, one half-gallon bottle, six four ounce alcohol bottles and forty-eight beer bottles. The labels were intact and the identifying odor was present, but the bottles all were empty.

The Catholics of Oran last week let the contract for a \$28,000 church in that city.

"Egg mail" swamped the mail hack between Licking and Houston the other day when twenty cases were forwarded by parcel post from that route. When the hack arrived at Raymondville the carrier employed emergency and hired an extra vehicle for overflow business.

After all, there is some sort of honor among thieves. Some time ago the home of a Kirksville school teacher was robbed. A few days ago the owner received a note from the thief, who inclosed insurance policies and other non-negotiable papers of value only to the owner.

The Milan Granite Works last week lettered a monument for Aunt Polly Reed who was 105 years old. Mrs. Minnie McEntire, who lives at Pollock, paid for the stone and the engraving. Aunt Polly was the oldest person, as far as we know, that ever lived in this county--Milan Standard.

When a Nodaway county family was so unfortunate as to lose all its possessions in the fire which destroyed its home, kind-hearted neighbors neighbors decided to give a shower. Invitations were issued and more than two hundred guests responded, each bringing some useful article as a gift.

A young idiot was fishing through the ice the other day. He heard a large buick car roll across the nearby bridge and a bullfrog say, "Buu-ick, Buu-ick!" Next came a Cadillac and a guinea in the pasture said, "Cad-il-lac, Cad-il-lac!" Finally a Ford rolled across the bridge and a little snowbird said, "Cheep, cheep."--Edgerton Journal.

Former Gov. A. M. Dockery, now third assistant postmaster-general at Washington, wears boots all the year 'round. He wore them when he served in congress, kept them on when he was governor, and someone has been unkind enough to say he does not take them off when he goes to bed. As a true Westerner, doubtless he expects to die with his boots on.

Twenty five years is a long time to wait to get even with a charivari promoter, but when J. D. Coon of Princeton was married. Henry Shookley helped "ride him on a rail." Mr. Shookley married recently, and on the day he was expected home, Mr. Coon organized a party and made his old friend ride a rail in explanation of the like ceremony twenty-five years ago.

Louis Merriman, who was born while George Washington was president of the United States, died Thursday at his home in Kansas City. He was 121 years old, and he had said he was the oldest negro in America. He was born on the Sopher plantation in Virginia, and was 87 years old when freedom came during the Civil war. After the war he went to Kansas, living near Paola until three years ago. Residents of Paola made an investigation of his age and declared they were satisfied he was born in 1795.

When a mule he was leading jumped in the buggy and tried to saddle up beside him, Frank Cannon of Jackson became convinced that dumb animals love company when they are frightened. Mr. Cannon did not lose his presence of mind, but the buggy went all to pieces.

The body of "Pink" Kilgore, who was drowned when he fell off the Cairo Branch bridge over Black river some weeks ago, was found last Friday by three small boys. The body was half buried in a sand bar, near the W. E. Morrison mill. No inquest was held.--Poplar Bluff Citizen.

The fact that the old wooden bridge across the Pomme de Terre at Fairfield, Benton county, withstood the attempt of some miscreant to dynamite it, demonstrates that a wooden bridge is pretty lasting after all. This particular bridge was built in 1849, and has outlived many steel and all the cable bridges in that county.

The 10-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller living one mile north of Fromsdorf was bitten by a dog last Friday. The dog was a bound and belonged to Miller. The boy was patting the dog on the head when it grabbed him, tearing the jaw from the left ear to the angle of the mouth. It required seven stitches to tie up the wound.--Ilmo Jimpickle.

"Remember it is 'catching before hanging'," said a Weston poet as he laid these lines on the desk of the Herald, then fled: "A young lady residing in Weston, when gudding just would put her best on. Her clothing grew shabby; her purse it grew flabby, so credit she finally dressed on." The sad part of story is that the poet escaped.

Like truth, Louis Bokenper of Glenwood lay at the bottom of a well when caught by a cave-in of brickwork which for six hours held him prisoner in the well he essayed to clean. The accident was noted at once and relief work begun, but it was more than six hours before he was rescued from his perilous position fifty feet under ground. Mr. Bokenper was only slightly hurt.

Postmaster Phleiger got a letter from a man in a neighboring county who had read much about the convenience of the parcel post. He wanted one of our carriers to go to market and buy sausage, cheese of several different kinds, fish, oysters, meats and preserves," said Mr. Phleiger. "He asked that the stuff be sent C. O. D."--Caruthersville Republican.

We are informed this week that the manager of the Silver Mines has purchased the machinery that has been in use at the Jackson Revelle mines and will remove it to the Silver mines for use at that place. During the last few days several loads of tents and camping outfits have been hauled to the mines for use until houses can be built for the men that are to be employed.--Fredricktown Tribune.

It is reported that there was doings in Ilmo last Saturday night. A quiet little game of draw was in progress and the "kitty" was being fed pretty regular when suddenly the wife of one of the players appeared on the scene, so the story goes, delivered a piece of her mind in regard to mankind in general and poker players in particular, gathered up what money was in sight, took a swipe at the "kitty" kicked over a chair, took her hubby with her and left, leaving the other players wondering where they were "at."--Ilmo Jimpickle.

Whooping Cough.
Furnished by the Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

Whooping cough derives its name from the peculiar inspiratory whoop following a paroxysm of coughing. The disease occurs in extensive epidemics, apparently uninfluenced by weather or season, although its epidemics are most severe and frequent in cold climates. Apparently it is a disease of fairly modern origin. At least we do not find it certainly described by ancient writers.

It is caused by a small germ which is thrown out in the act of coughing, consequently it is spread most often by direct contact of one child with another. The germ may, however, be carried from one person to another by handkerchiefs, toys, drinking cups, roller towels and other objects which become infested with the secretions of the respiratory tract. It is said that some of the lower animals, particularly the dog, are occasionally infected with whooping cough, and the disease may be spread in this manner. It is contagious from the appearance of the earliest symptoms, and the danger of contagion is greater during the early stages, although it exists throughout the disease and during convalescence. After exposure, a period of from one to two weeks elapses before the appearance of symptoms.

People generally do not realize the dangerous character of whooping cough. The death rate in the United States is about 10,000 a year--more than scarlet fever. It is particularly dangerous to children under 3 years of age and to those who are tuberculous.

The principles of prevention are simple. Since the disease is spread entirely by the secretions from the respiratory tract, prevention consists in keeping other children from coming in contact with these. Isolation of patients is necessary. Toys, handkerchiefs, etc., should not be passed from a sick child to well ones. Sick children should not be allowed to go to school, theaters or public assemblies of any sort. Owing to the long duration of an attack of whooping cough and the fact that children are seldom ill enough to be confined to bed, isolation is particularly hard to carry out. An abundance of fresh air helps in the treatment and there is no objection to children going out provided they are in the care of an intelligent person who will prevent contact with well children. In some cities, the wearing of an arm-band marked "whooping cough" has been tried with apparent good results. This prevents other children from coming in close contact with sick ones. The closer the contact, the greater the danger.

A vaccine made from the germ is quite extensively employed. From three to four injections are given, and in a great majority of cases, according to reports, the disease is prevented. The same vaccine is used for treatment with extremely good results. While the matter is not yet considered settled, no harm can come from the use of the vaccine, and it has produced such favorable results wherever tried, that its use is to be recommended, especially since no other satisfactory form of treatment has yet been devised. While certain drugs apparently have a favorable influence, none has been found which will stop the attack, and much harm is often done by too much drugging.

Plowing Under Weeds And Grass.
M. F. Miller, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

The large amount of rainfall last season resulted in an excessive growth of weeds and fall grasses in many parts of the country and farmers are now confronted with the problem of turning under this large growth of dry material. The difficulties encountered will undoubtedly lead a good many of them to resort to burning. The great need of most corn belt soils for organic matter makes it highly undesirable to burn off anything where it can be avoided, except occasionally on local areas for controlling insects. Organic matter is the great need of many soils, as shown by analyses made at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, and if this large growth could be satisfactorily turned under at this time it would be of great value to the land.

The difficulties in plowing under are two: first, where the covering is mainly of grass which lies closely to the ground the soil dries out so slowly as to throw plowing late. Second, it is very difficult to turn under this material and incorporate it thoroly with the soil. There is no entirely satisfactory way of drying out the land if the soil is very heavy and the layer of dry grass is very thick except by burning it off but it should be understood that burning is the last resort. It might even pay better in such cases to plow late and seed to soybeans or cowpeas rather than attempt to prepare the land for corn. The problem of turning under this material can largely be solved by three disking as soon as the land is dry enough. There are doubtless extreme cases where this cannot well be done, but as a general rule the use of a sharp, weighted disk will aid very greatly in preparing this material for plowing under. Farmers are using the disk before plowing and this is a case where its use becomes of greater importance than usual.

In case the land does not dry early enough to allow the plowing under of this material before the latter part of April in Central Missouri the disk must certainly be used to aid in incorporating the organic matter with the soil. A large amount of dry material plowed into land late would be injurious to the immediate crop, in spite of the fact that it might be beneficial to the soil in the long run. By the use of a sharp disk one should be able to save this organic material for the soil and at the same time prepare a thoro seed bed for the immediate crop, except in the most extreme cases.

Bitter Milk.

Milk is especially likely to be bitter in the spring, but this trouble may appear at any time. It is almost sure to result from (1) eating the last remaining weeds in closely grazed pastures, (2) bad health of the cow, or (3) the growth of bacteria in milk. The cure in each case consists in finding and removing the cause and suggestions for doing this are made by Percy Werner, Jr. of the Missouri College of Agriculture.

If the milk becomes bitter after standing it is not the cow's fault, but results from the growth of bacteria brought in by particles of dirt or manure or left in improperly cleaned vessels. If the milk of all the cows in the herd is bitter when drawn the feed is

Sour Soil.

Sour soils are often recognized by the weeds found growing on them. One of the most common weeds in meadows and pastures that have become acid or sour is Red Sorrel. Complaint is often made that red sorrel is killing the red clover. Sorrel will grow on limed soils but is not able to compete with other plants or weeds. In the sour field the clover died from a lack of lime and then the red sorrel occupies the land. Red Sorrel is not to be confused with sheep sorrel that has pink blossoms, bulbous roots from which cover all the leaves. The leaves are in three parts arranged at the top of the leaf stalk. Red sorrel has small, inconspicuous flowers, long narrow leaves, shaped somewhat like a spear head, and spreads both by runners and seeds. The ripened seed stalks are quite prominent and give the plant its name.

Door weed is another common weed on sour land. This plant is the flat, carpet-like weed found growing along paths and in door yards. It is usually covered with a white mildew. On soil becoming sour it appears in great abundance. Common plantain and horsetail rush also indicate sour land.

Some crops that grow in South east Missouri and are adapted to soils are cow peas, red top, water melons, strawberries, vetch, potatoes, sweet potatoes and buckwheat.

Some field crops injured by sour soils are alfalfa, timothy, blue grass, corn, sorghum, red clover and pea nuts. Some garden crops injured by sour soils are peppers, pumpkin, beets, celery, cabbage, onion, okra and egg plant. More complete lists of plants can be found in Farmers' Bulletin 77., Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

SETH BARCOCK.

probably at fault and the bitter taste will probably disappear if the cows are kept in a lot where they cannot get at weeds. This will give the pastures a better chance to get a good start. If only one or a few of the cows give bitter milk it is probably because they are in bad health or going dry, and their milk should be kept away from the rest so that it will not spoil the whole milking.

WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS

(National Crop Improvement Service.)
There has been a rank growth of wheat over practically the whole of the Winter Wheat belt.

There has been some apprehension that insect pests would do serious damage, but so far this pessimistic outlook has failed to materialize.

Snow has fallen over the Western part of the Winter Wheat belt, and when reasonable Winter weather gradually supplants the unseasonable warm weather in the rest of the Wheat belt, no serious damage is apt to result to the crop.

In this case the heavy growth should be of considerable advantage.

SMUT IN OATS

E. T. Robbins, Agent, Tazewell Co. Ill., Will Wage Campaign of Eradication of Smut by Treating Seed With Formaldehyde.

"The oats crop was carefully studied and it was found that 5 to 10 per cent. of the oats were affected by smut. The average of fields examined showed about 10 per cent. of the crop affected. This would mean a loss of at least 3 bushels per acre amounting to fully \$1. This loss can be saved by treating the seed oats at an average cost of 1 cent per bushel per year, and a campaign is planned for next spring in treating oats in this way. It was found in studying the oats crop, that drilled oats had usually more uniform stand and better yield than broadcasted oats, amounting this year to a gain of 5 to 10 bushels per acre."